



# arts education

Although best known for its high-profile artistic activities, the Orchestra of St. Luke's has long been an advocate for arts education. For 35 years, the Orchestra of St. Luke's has offered an innovative and far-reaching educational program for New York City public students, particularly those most underserved.

St. Luke's Arts Education Program consists of three primary initiatives:

*Free Educational Performances:*

- Free professional performances each Fall, Winter, and Spring (30+ concerts)
- Free Family Concerts at local cultural institutions

*School Partnerships:*

- teaching artists collaborate with classroom teachers in creative residencies that support school learning goals through the arts
- musicians collaborate with school music teachers to prepare young musicians to participate in public performances
- a comprehensive range of professional development activities linking music and musicians, collaborating artists, and teachers and teaching artists with ideas and activities to share in the classroom
- an after-school high school residency that trains young musicians in music composition, culminating in a world premiere of student works and professional recording

*Institutional Partnerships:*

- Queens Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Edenwald branch of the New York Public Library join St. Luke's to provide Free Family Concerts and related arts activities
- The Apollo Theater, Brooklyn High School of the Arts, Queens College Kupferberg Center and partnership schools host free educational performances

These activities create a rich and compelling creative experience for New York City's students. We challenge teachers and schoolchildren to learn about music and the arts, engage them as perceptive audience members, and encourage their creativity in all aspects of their academic lives.

**Free Educational Performances**

St. Luke's Arts Education Program produces full-scale, professional performances for 20,000 New York City students each year, free of charge. Students from all five boroughs travel on buses and subways to major New York City concert venues to hear performances by such composers as Copland, Handel, Stravinsky, and Vivaldi, and to see such notable collaborating artists like Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane & Co., Freefall Modern Dance Company, Simone Dinnerstein, and more. The outstanding musicians of the Orchestra of St. Luke's provide live orchestral and chamber music in educational programs, and lead young instrumentalists in side-by-side performances.

Free study guide curriculum materials created by and for teachers, teaching artists, and students are distributed to every classroom prior to attendance. Professional development sessions for teachers offer additional insight into the artistic content of the performances.

## **School Partnerships**

With the goal of augmenting and enhancing arts instruction in public schools, St. Luke's Arts Education Program places both music and creative movement teaching artists in elementary school classrooms around New York City. Teaching artists and classroom teachers work within a curriculum framework to develop lessons that connect artistic ideas with school learning goals identified by teachers and administrators and that meet standards laid out in the NYCDOE Blueprint.

Students participate in 16 or more teaching artist sessions during the school year, focused around three cycles of free performances offered by St. Luke's musicians and collaborating artists. Students explore ideas and concepts found in the music through a series of classroom activities, culminating in a grade-specific project that demonstrates learning such as creative movement, visual arts, and music composition.

## *Philosophy*

Music is the central focus of the Orchestra of St. Luke's arts education philosophy. The expressivity and structure of music are explored through a broad range of activities including instrumental and vocal improvisation, creative movement, visual art, theater and writing activities. These activities expand children's kinesthetic and aural experiences with musical ideas, illustrating the physical, visual, and spatial ways in which artists express sound.

The ultimate goal of the program is to support the development of creative thinking and expression through a broadening awareness of how music works, how sounds, and the emotions it conveys.

Since the inception of this program in 1976, St. Luke's Arts Education Program has introduced over one million students to the beauty and power of the performing arts. St. Luke's is committed to sharing New York City's artistic and cultural richness with young New Yorkers of diverse cultural, economic, and linguistic backgrounds, from schools and neighborhoods across the city.

## **Contact us**

Visit [www.OSLmusic.org/arts\\_ed](http://www.OSLmusic.org/arts_ed) or email St. Luke's Arts Education Program at [education@oslmusic.org](mailto:education@oslmusic.org) to learn more about the program.